



 HARVARD UNIVERSITY

DAVID ROCKEFELLER CENTER  
FOR LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

REGIONAL OFFICE



**DRCLAS REGIONAL OFFICE  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2004 - 2005**

To view the full Center-wide 2004-2005 annual report, please visit  
<http://drclas.harvard.edu/files/drclas/files/annualreport2005.pdf>

## Annual Report 2004-2005

In June 2005, the DRCLAS's three-year Regional Office pilot project in Santiago, Chile achieved a more permanent institutional standing at Harvard and is now widely cited as a model for other initiatives that the University hopes to carry out around the world.

In 2004-2005, Provost Steven Hyman appointed a Review Committee that Professor of Economics Dwight Perkins chaired, to evaluate the DRCLAS Regional Office. The Committee's report described the Santiago Office as "both well-run and successful in fulfilling its mission as well as important needs of the University." Furthermore, the report stated the expectation "that, over the next five years, the Regional Office will continue to do what it has done so exceptionally well over the last two and half years: first, serve the students and faculty of all of the Schools of the University according to their needs and interests; second, reach out proactively to faculty, students and administrators who may wish to undertake projects in Latin America but may not know where to begin; third, innovate thoughtfully and in coordination with relevant University leaders—as it has done, for example, with the undergraduate study abroad program."

Since its founding in August 2002, the DRCLAS Regional Office has assisted Harvard faculty members carry out 16 collaborative initiatives in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Peru and Uruguay. Over the past three years it has worked with 58 Harvard faculty members conducting research in the region and with 29 Harvard senior administrative staff members on a wide variety of University activities. The Santiago Office has organized 42 faculty-led international conferences and public events, as well as 22 events for Harvard Alumni. In

the past year, the Regional Office worked with Harvard faculty projects ranging from Andean iconography to reforestation in the Torres de Paine National Park in Chile.

Over the course of the three-year pilot program, the DRCLAS Regional Office also developed a series of new international opportunities for students at every level throughout the University. It currently administers five credit-granting education abroad opportunities, including the Harvard College Study Abroad Program in Santiago, the Harvard Law School Study Abroad Program, the Harvard School of Public Health course on Health Policy Reform in Chile, and two programs with the Harvard Medical School (HMS): an International Service Learning and Intensive Spanish Program, and HMS clinical rotations in Chile. In addition, the Regional Office has organized 78 events especially for Harvard students, bringing the total number of Harvard students who have directly benefited from interacting with the Regional Office to over 260.

In June 2005, the Regional Office initiated a new Santiago Summer Internship Program that matches Harvard College student volunteers with non-governmental, cultural, public and private sector organizations in Santiago for a two-month internship. The program offers students a oneweek orientation, placement in internship sites, local home stay, continued Spanish language training as well as weekly seminars and local excursions. DRCLAS placed 30 students in organizations including a nonprofit for people with disabilities, municipal and national government agencies, local schools, news organizations and international organizations such as the U.N. Economic Commission for Latin

America and the Caribbean, the U.N. Development Program and UNESCO.

Beginning in 2004-2005, the DRCLAS Regional Office has been supported entirely by a combination of local support from individuals in the region, including a generous gift of \$1 million from Chilean entrepreneur Andrónico Luksic, contributions from companies that opt to participate in the DRCLAS Corporate Partners program and modest fees associated with some programmatic activities.

The DRCLAS Regional Office was established as an experiment to address a key question: what impact could a physical presence make, representing Harvard's University-wide interests, in promoting the work of the University in one geographic region in the world? The Provost Office's evaluation report concludes that "If the University is going to continue to 'globalize,' then it will require an infrastructure to support its expansion. The Santiago office represents an extraordinary resource for the University as it begins to build this infrastructure."

#### **The Robert F. Kennedy Visiting Professorship**

The Robert F. Kennedy (RFK) Visiting Professorship in Latin American Studies was created at Harvard University in 1986 through a generous gift from the late Edmond Safra and the Republic of New York Corporation. DRCLAS administers the RFK Professorship, which enables Harvard to invite eminent Latin Americans from various fields to teach at the University. In 2004-2005, the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and the Graduate School of Education hosted two distinguished Robert F. Kennedy Visiting Professors.

#### **Ernesto Schiefelbein, Chile. Graduate School of Education (Spring 2005)**

Schiefelbein is Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Universidad Metropolitana de Ciencias de la Educación (UMCE) in Chile. He is former President of the University of Santo Tomás and served as Minister of Education of Chile in 1994. He is the author of books in the areas of educational policy and planning, school achievement and higher education. He holds a doctoral degree in Education from Harvard University and degrees from the University of Santiago and University of Chile, respectively. While at Harvard, Schiefelbein taught two courses: "Rethinking the Purposes of Education in Developing Countries" and "Foundations of Systemic Educational Change in Developing Countries." His public lecture was entitled Teaching More or Teaching Better? A Look at Higher Education in Latin America.